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ABSTRACT

The children's books listed in this annotated bibliography contain older characters who are significant to the story, making the listing a useful resource for teachers and others interested in helping children become more sensitive to the ways in which older people are treated. The individual listings contain information on the author, title, publisher, age level (preschool, primary, intermediate), genre (fiction, biography), plot, and dominant image of the story (how the aged are portrayed). The citations are listed under the following topics: cross cultural, death of a grandparent, fantasy-oriented, grandchild visiting grandparents, grandparents faced with changes while they are caring for children, living alone, living alone and becoming ill, grandparents living with or visiting grandchildren, grandparents who have primary care of young children, the nursing home, photographic essays, senility, and relationships between children and older people outside the family. (RL)

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Ageism: Its Portrayal in Children's Books

An annotated bibliography

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The elderly are and will continue to be a constant part of our environment. Assuming present trends in population continue as predicted, by the year 2000 one third of our population will be over age sixty-five and one half over the age of sixty. This increase in numbers of the elderly has been steady yet one wonders whether we, as a society, are preparing ourselves and especially our youth for acceptance of the elderly into our culture.

How do our school-age children view old age? A research study done by the University of Maryland's Center on Aging indicates children have negative views of older citizens. This negative imagery according to the Annenberg Study which analyzed some 1,365 programs, is reinforced by television. The study reported the aged come across as stubborn, eccentric, often silly human beings.

Children's literature provides a reflection of our society. Therefore, the books depicting elderly characters are a natural resource to examine our treatment of the aged.

Following is an annotated bibliography of children's books that present older characters who are significant to the story. These books should provide a useful resource to teachers or others interested in helping children become more sensitive to the ways in which older people are treated.

CROSS-CULTURAL

Bluenose, Philip, and Carpenter, Walter S. Two knots on a counting rope. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1964.

Primary, Fiction

A simple story centering around a young Navajo boy's respect and love for his grandfather, who teaches him how to count. The rope and its knots are symbolic of a person's life. After the last knot, one dies.

IMAGE: A wise and gentle old one who is respected and revered by his grandson.

Contant, Helen. First snow. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1974. Illustrated by Vo-Dinh.

Primary, fiction

Lun's family is Buddhist, like most Vietnamese families. Her beautiful relationship with her Grandmother helps her to understand what dying is and shows the Buddhist belief that life and death are but two parts of the same thing.

IMAGE: The place of the grandmother as a part of this Vietnamese family is accepted with no conflict. The grandmother accepts that she is dying and is able to share with her grandchild this acceptance.

The role of the grandmother-granddaughter relationship is one of warmth and sharing but the grandmother is accepted as having some transcendent wisdom--she is respected and revered in this Buddhist household.

Cornish, Sam. Grandmother's pictures. Bradbury, 1974. Illustrated by Jeanne Johns.

Primary, fiction

Grandmother's pictures tell a young boy the story of his family.

IMAGE: A black grandmother tells the story of her life and the memories of days gone by to a young grandson. The role of the child and grandmother is one of mutual support and understanding. (Although the child stands apart from the grandmother on a physical level with no feeling of the physical closeness found in some of the other primary level books).

Haley, Gail. A story, A story. New York: Atheneun, 1970.

Primary, fiction

An African folktale retold shows Kwakn Ananse, the spider man, to be old yet wise in solving the problem of bringing stories to earth from the golden box of Nyame the Sky God.

IMAGE: Though based on a folktale the image of the Spider Man as physically competent while wise and able to outwit the God is one of acceptance and reverence for old age!

Hood, Flora Mae. Something for the medicine man. Melmont Publishers, Inc., 1962. Illustrated by Robert Dranko

Intermediate, fiction

A thoughtful story reflecting a culture which values wisdom, simplicity and closeness to nature. A little Cherokee girl brings the gift of a spring violet to the old medicine man.

IMAGE: Old and wise, the medicine man is respected and held in awe by the young ones.

Houston, James A. Akavak: An Eskimo journey. Harcourt, Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1968.

Intermediate, fiction

The story of a thirteen year old Eskimo boy who accompanies his Grandfather on a long journey to the North country. The loss of food, dog team and sled, fear and fatigue are interspersed with the boy's use of all the skills he has learned. The death of the old grandfather at the end of the story is an anti climax to the excitement of the rest of the story.

IMAGE: Physically old and fragile the Eskimo Grandfather does not survive the long journey across ice and snow. The hardships of the journey would have been enough to kill a young man--therefore it is difficult to say his age was the determining factor. The boy is cast in the role of defender and protector for the grandfather.

Hsiao, Ellen. A Chinese Year. New York: M.Evans & Co., 1970. Artist/Author

Intermediate, fiction

Ai lan and her brother Nan-san go to live with their grandfather for a year so he will not be lonely after his wife's death. They learn the Chinese customs for burying and mourning a loved one. A cross-cultural look at the reverence for age and wisdom.

IMAGE: The Chinese children go to spend a customary year with their Grandfather who is mourning the death of his wife.

The role of the children as fulfilling the traditional practice shows a much different perspective of a Grandfather who is allowed the ability and independence to care for and make decisions for his grandchildren during a sad time.

Jones, Weyman B. Edge of two worlds. New York: Dial Press, Inc., 1968.

Intermediate, fiction

In 1842 Calvin Harper finds himself stranded on the prarie after a Comanche ambush. He is harrassed and then befriended by a wrinkled, sick, old American Indian who turns out to be Sequoyah--silversmith, metal worker,

teacher and inventor of the Cherokee alphabet.

IMAGE: Independent, intelligent, one-of-a-kind Sequoyah becomes a boy's hero--only after trials, tributions and conflict between the two.

Miles, Miska. Annie and the old one. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1971. Illustrated by Peter Parnall.

Intermediate, fiction

The best part of Annie's world was her Navajo grandmother. Only with some help from the Old One is she able to accept the passage of time and the inevitability of death.

IMAGE: The "old one" is a Navajo grandmother who is pictured as revered and wise. Her acceptance of death creates conflict and disbelief in her granddaughter. The relationship between the two is a strong bond marred by the thought of the ultimate separation and consequent loss.

Sneve, Virginia Driving Hawk. Jimmy Yellow Hawk. Holiday House, Inc., 1972. Illustrated by Oren Lyons

Intermediate, fiction

Little Jimmy Yellow Hawk a full-blooded Sioux Indian is faced with counteracting being teased by his friends about his name. The customs of his people related by his Grandfather ("the old man") cause him to try performing good deeds in order to have his name changed.

IMAGE: Grandfather is older, wiser and the advisor of the young Navajo boy.

Udry, Janice May. Mary Jo's grandmother. Chicago: Albert Whitman & Co., 1970. Illustrated 1970 Eleanor Mill.

Primary, fiction

In this story of a black family Mary Jo goes to visit her grandmother and doesn't expect more excitement than hot

biscuits and sewing lessons. When her grandmother falls and breaks her leg Mary Jo musters the strength to go through a heavy first snow to summon help.

IMAGE: A black grandmother lives alone in the country. Her problems with physically getting older are focused when she falls and injures her leg. The dilemma of living alone is presented yet not resolved.

The chance presence of the granddaughter is fortunate cast in the role of "child as helper."

DEATH OF A GRANDPARENT

Bartoli, Jennifer. Nonna. New York: Harvey House, 1975.

Primary, fiction.

The loss of a grandmother is reflected in the sadness of the family and a description of the funeral. The mourning and the feeling of closeness of an extended family when there is a loss are reflected throughout the story.

IMAGE: Nonna is dead at the beginning of the story but is a real person through the memories of her grandson. Both the sense of loss and the loving memories provide insight into the grieving process which occurs when there is such a loss.

Dobrin, Arnold. Scat! New York: Four Winds Press, 1971.

Primary, fiction.

Eight-year-old Scat dearly loves his Grandma and feels sad when she dies. After her death he goes to her grave to play the blues on his harmonica as a special good-by--even though Grandma wasn't sure she liked his music. As a result he began to understand what she meant by "listen to what your heart says, not your head."

IMAGE: Grandmother who is the "boss" of this black family while she is living doesn't accept the new fangled jazz of her son's generation. She does however accept

her grandson and ultimately his choice to play jazz. The conflict of the old ways with the new ways is illustrated in this story. The illustrations are well done and add to the emotional level of the story.

Fassler, Joan. My Grandpa died today. New York: Human Science Press, 1971.

Primary, fiction.

This story shows the feelings of a child when his grandpa dies. The grandpa is pictured as empty and grumpy with the child in conflict about the feeling of loss and the feeling of relief.

IMAGE: The grandfather is the picture of an old grouch with the child shown in conflict about his feelings though he eventually does accept his grandfather's death.

FANTASY-ORIENTED

Brandenberg, Franz. A secret for grandmother's birthday. Greenwillow, 1975.

Primary, fiction.

A brother and sister cat plan the secret gifts they will give grandmother cat for her birthday.

Corbett, Scott. The great custard pie panic. Atlantic Monthly Press, 1975.

Intermediate, fantasy

Aunt Nellie Rim's bakery changes into Merlin's Magic Shop right before Nick's eyes. Wild and funny fantasy depicts an old one.

IMAGE: A sweet docile "old one" turns into a wicked grouchy "old one." Even though the setting is one of fantasy--

the image is a stereotype of the changes that do occur in old people.

The role of the child is depicted as one of being chased and tormented by an old wicked man.

Flora, James. Grandpa's farm. New York: Harcourt, 1965.

Primary, fiction

In the course of spinning his yarns Grandpa creates humor and entertainment for the younger set.

IMAGE: Grandpa is the entertainer with the wisdom and wit to charm the "young ones." He is pictured as a valued part of the lives of the children and their friends.

Gesckke, Susan. Mia, grandma and the genie. New York: Holt, 1977.

Intermediate, fiction

Mia comes to understand her grandmother's friendship with her household items, nature, and the ugly genie in the earthenware jar.

IMAGE: The turn to magic in order to keep Grandmother's things in perspective.

Mac Gregor, Ellen. Miss Pickerell harvests the sea. New York: McGraw Hill, 1968. Illustrated by Charles Greer.

Intermediate, fiction

Miss Pickerell is a dynamic little lady who finds for herself many adventures. This book finds her harvesting the sea through deep sea diving and underwater exploration.

IMAGE: Fantasy-like with the old lady able to work and be in charge of her life.

Williams, Barbara. Kevin's Grandma. New York: E.P. Dutton and Co., Inc., 1975.

Primary, fiction.

Kevin's grandma is like no other grandmother. She dashes up on a motorcycle with mad magazine and peanut-butter soup. An imaginative and atypical picture of Grandmothers.

IMAGE: Kevin's grandmother becomes an imaginative--fantasy type old person who is given the attributes of magic and absolute understanding of her grandchild. Her antics make her the image of "Super Grandmother."

GRANDCHILD COMES TO VISIT GRANDPARENTS

Aaron, Chester. Catch Calico! New York: Dutton, 1979.

Intermediate, fiction

An unexpected trip to his family's wilderness cabin tests a young boy's maturity when he has to cope with his grandfather's illness and with the old man's determination to kill a rabid cat.

IMAGE: Illness and loss of memory cast the Grandfather in the role of a belligerent "old one" who never the less needs the grandson to care for him.

Borack, Barbara. Grandpa. New York: Harper and Row, 1967.

Primary, fiction.

The story of a young girl and her visit and shared secrets with her Grandpa.

IMAGE: Grandfather is a special person to a young child. He is cast in the role of being the little girl's peer--playing games and sharing secrets with her.

Byars, Betsy Cromer. The house of wings. New York: The Viking Press, Inc., 1972.

Intermediate, fiction.

The story of ten-year-old Sammy and his "disertion" at his Grandfather's house includes aspects of the boy's feeling of loss at being left with his grandfather and the intriguing interest his grandfather has for birds and the old man's genuine reverence for life.

IMAGE: The retreat from the world of people into the world of animals suits the old man who lives an unorthodox life with wild birds roaming the house. The boy is resistant and then captivated by the old man's reverence for and wisdom about living creatures.

De Paola, Tomie. Watch Out for the Chicken Feet in Your Soup. Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice, 1974.

Primary, fiction

A young boy gains a new appreciation of his old fashioned Italian grandmother.

IMAGE: An Italian grandmother is both a source of embarrassment and ultimately acceptance with her thick accent and the traditional involvement with cooking and feeding her grandson and his friend.

The relationship between the Grandmother and grandson is one of conflict between value systems--ultimately replaced by a level of understanding of the Grandmother by the boy.

Gauch, Patricia Lee. Grandpa and Me. New York: Coward, McCann, 1972. Illustrated by Symeon Shimin.

Primary, fiction

The combination of illustrations and text describes the close companionship between the boy and his grandfather. The story gives the reader the sense of security and shared feelings between the two during a summer at a lakeside cottage.

IMAGE: A shared warm relationship between a grandpa and his grandson. The role of the grandfather is one of being competent and in charge of the situation, yet the relationship shows no conflict between the two. The illustrations are an integral part of the feeling of warmth and sharing.

Kleberger, Ilse. Grandmother Oma. New York: Atheneum Publishers, 1967. Illustrated by Wallace Tripp.

Intermediate, fiction

The children in this delightful family story enjoy their eccentric German grandmother. They turn to her with their problems because they know she will take time to listen and help.

IMAGE: Grandmother is friend and helper. She helps the children solve problems and make decisions. She is independent and resourceful.

Koingsburg, E.L. Night of the lionids. New York: Atheneum Publishers, 1971. In Altogether One at a Time.

Intermediate, fiction

In the second story of the series Lewis figures out why Grandmother is so disappointed to miss the Lenoid metor shower which is clouded over. By the time there is another she would be 96 years old and not likely to be around.

IMAGE: The role of the child is one of understanding and accepting Grandmother with the Grandmother shown as autonomous, independent, living alone in New York City, and very perceptive of the boy's feelings and of her encroaching old age.

La Farge, Phyllis. Granny's fish story. New York: Parents, 1975. Illustrated by Gahan Wilson.

Primary, fiction

Julie introduces her friend Sarah to the ways of the country during a visit to her grandmother's house in the woods.

Lapp, Eleanor J. In the morning mist. Chicago: A. Whitman, 1978.

Primary, fiction

A young boy and his grandfather set out on a fishing expedition and find the countryside transformed by fog.

IMAGE: The "foggy" illustrations contribute to the feeling of closeness of the Grandfather and Grandson. The relattionship is one of mutual sharing of the day and experiences.

Lingord, Joan. The Clearance. Nashville: Nelson, 1974.

Intermediate, fiction

Margaret anticipates a dull summer with her grandmother in the Scottish highlands.

O'Hanlon, Jacklyn. The other Michael. New York: Dial, 1977.

Intermediate, fiction

Through a relationship with his garndmother, a boy learns to accept himself in spite of parental disapproval.

IMAGE: Grandmother accepts and cares for the needs of her grandson. There is conflict between the boy and his mother with the Grandmother cast in the role of the intervener.

Skolsky, Mindy Warshaw. Carnival and Kopeck and More About Hannah. New York: Harper, 1979. Illustrated by Karen Ann Wunhaus.

Intermediate, fiction

A young girl spends the day with her grandmother and gets so excited about going to the carnival and spending the night at her grandmother's house that she has her first argument with her grandmother.

IMAGE: Although old, Grandmother is warm and human and the granddaughter gets into a spot with her. A realistic view of both sides of grandmother's temperament.

Skolsky, Mindy Warshaw. The whistling teakettle and other stories about Hannah. New York: Harper and Row Publishers,

1977. Illustrated by Karen Ann Wheinhaus.

Imtermediate, fiction

Hannah tries to give Grandma a gift of a whistling teakettle which Grandma says is not a necessity. More important is the secret place she shares with her Grandma who knows she will keep the memory forever.

IMAGE: Grandparents are depicted as autonomous and self sufficient. The relationship with the granddaughter is one of mutual acceptance and understanding. The granddaughter is also presented as independent and able to get around alone.

Sonneborn, Ruth A. I Love Gram. New York: Viking, 1971.

Primary, fiction

The story of Ellies' love and concern for her grandmother.

Winthrop, Elizabeth. Walking Away. New York: Harper, 1973.

Intermediate, fiction

Nothing seems the same at Emily's grandparents' farm the summer her best friends comes to visit.

GRANDPARENT LIVING WITH OR PROVIDING PRIMARY CARE FOR CHILD IS FACED WITH CHANGE

Behrens, June York. Soo Ling finds a way. New York: Children's Press, Inc., 1965. Illustrated by Taro Yashima.

Preschool primary, fiction

The story of a granddaughter's resourcefulness in saving the Chinese Laundry business of her beloved grandfather.

IMAGE: The grandfather is resourceful and independent but needs his granddaughter's help in saving his business.

The child is cast in the role of solving problems for the grandparent.

Bulla, Clyde Robert. The sugar pear tree. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, Inc., 1960. Illustrated by Taro Yashima.

Intermediate, fiction

Grandpa's stubborn refusal to accept change precipitates a family crisis. When mother, son and Grandfather are finally forced to move, the old man withdraws from reality.

IMAGE: Inability to accept change. Depression and withdrawal from reality. Grandfather must be cared for and decisions made by others.

Byars, Bersy Cromer. After the goat man. The Viking Press, Inc., 1974.

Intermediate, fiction

Figgy and his Grandpa are forced to move from their cabin in order to make way for the progress of a new highway. Grandpa's defense of his cabin with a shotgun creates a situation wherein the boy and his friends must go to Grandpa's rescue.

IMAGE: Resistance to change and inappropriate behavior on the part of the Grandfather create a situation wherein the grandson must control the events. The problems of change and the number it does on old people is aptly presented.

Carlson, Natalie Savage. Marchers for the dream. New York: Harper and Row Publishers, Inc., 1969. Illustrated by Alvin Smith.

Intermediate, fiction

Eleven year old Bethany is an Afro-American who lives with her mother and great grandmother in a house about to be destroyed by urban renewal. The sad learnings of a young black girl about the reality of prejudice and nonviolent protest are interlocked with her Grandma's feelings about nonviolence being the way to operate.

IMAGE: An active civil rights advocate and an independent though nonviolent protester, the black grandmother in this story is a role model for the black culture of today.

GRANDPARENT LIVING WITH OR VISITING GRANDCHILDREN

Fradin, Dennis. Bad luck Tony. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1978.

Intermediate, fiction

Tony finds a preganant dog, but as pets are prohibited in his apartment house he sadly tries to find a home for the dog. His visiting grandfather assists in the situation and helps make Christmas a joy.

IMAGE: Grandfather is the problem-solver for his young grandson.

Herman, Charlotte. Our snowman had olive eyes. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1977.

Intermediate, fiction

Ten-year-old Shelia is faced with sharing her room with her Grandmother who the family feels can no longer live alone. Both share many interesting experiences.

IMAGE: 79-year-old Bubbie, who grew up in Russia chooses to live with the daughter's family. The relationship between she and her granddaughter is one of understanding and sharing. The child is cast in the role of the Grandmother's emotional caretaker--and the mother seems totally unaware of her mother's needs or feelings. The conflict is present but seems resolved by the Grandmother's "giving up."

LeRoy, Gen. Emma's dilemma. New York: Harper and Row Publishers, 1975.

Intermediate, fiction

Emma's best friends is her sheepdog Pearl. Soon after Grandmom comes to live with Emma's family, the trouble starts. Grandmom can't breathe and is diagnosed as being allergic to Pearl. Emma must reconcile her anguish about losing her pet and the feeling of frustration toward her Grandmother. The dilemma is simplified if not solved by six year old Herbie who proves he is Emma's friend.

IMAGE: Grandmother becomes suddenly ill, doesn't want to be a bother, but changes the household of her daughter's family when she moves in to the city apartment. The conflict is heightened by the choice between the Grandmother and the dog--the resolution of the conflict between grandchild/grandmother reflects adolescent conflict in general. Grandmother--flat character.

Lexaw, Joan M. Benjie on his own. Dial Press, Inc., 1970.

Primary, fiction

Young Benjie must cope with the problems of a child facing his grandmother's illness and the urban reality of needing help with no one to turn to.

IMAGE: A grandmother suddenly ill leaves a small boy in the role of finding help in the city. The boy must show adult-like qualities in order to cope with the situation.

Mathis, Sharon Bell. The hundred penny box. New York: Viking Press, 1975. Illustrated Leo and Diane Dillon.

Intermediate-fiction

The story of a very old black woman and the love between her and a young boy. The hundred penny box, symbolic of great, great Aunt Dew's one hundred years also becomes a symbol of their relationship.

IMAGE: A very old black woman and her great great nephew have a secret sharing relationship in which the boy tries to protect and take care of great great Aunt Dew's interests. The boy's mother seems to generate conflict by her non-acceptance of the old woman's long standing habits and disregard of her attachment to shabby--but personal--belongings.

Robinson, Jean. The secret life of T.K. Dearing. New York: Seabury Press, 1973.

Intermediate, fiction

The story of a grandfather who feels useless at home and how he wants to play with his grandson and his friends.

IMAGE: Independent, resistant to coddling-distinct personality--idiocrancies that are annoying yet individualistic. Several old men with distinct personalities realistic depiction of the characters.

Simon, Shirley. Best friend. New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard Co., 1964.

Intermediate, fiction

The story of an eleven year old girl's trials and traumas in losing a "best friend." When an active friendly grandmother enters the picture it is helpful to Jenny in her attempt to find new friends.

IMAGE: Grandmother is the friendly protector and helps the child with her adolescent traumas.

Skorpen, Liesel Mook. Mandy's grandmother. New York: Dial, 1975.

Intermediate, fiction

The story depects a warm relationship between Mandy and her grandmother and illustrates the difficulties of communicating and the conflict that results when two value systems collide.

Sonneborn, Ruth A. I love Gram. The Viking Press, Inc., 1971.

Primary, fiction

The story of a little girl's love and concern for her Grandmother who takes the place of her working mother. The grandmother's illness and hospitalization illustrates the feeling of loss and separation that children feel when there is no opportunity to see that their loved one is being cared for.

IMAGE: Physical illness mars the image of the Grandmother as the independent caregiver. Illustrates the feeling of rejection which occurs to young ones when those close to them are hospitalized.

Tolan, Stephanie S. Grandpa and me. New York: Scribner, 1978.

Intermediate, fiction

In the form of Kerry's diary the story of an extended family, including grandfather and working parents depicts grandfather's increasing senility and brings Kerry to a new understanding of both him and herself.

IMAGE: A realistic viewpoint of senility and the problems faced by a family who accept the care of an older person. The embarrassment and the caring about the Grandfather are shown with insight and empathy. The suicide of Grandpa reflects the mental confusion that may be a result of feeling useless and in the way, yet not wanting to go to an old folk's home.

GRANDPARENT OR "OLD ONE" LIVING ALONE

Aldridge, Josephine. Fisherman's luck. Parnassus, 1966.

Primary, fiction.

When a storm destroy's fisherman Sy's home, his friends help to cut trees and build another.

IMAGE: Several older men are presented as diverse, capable, autonomous and able to direct their own lives.

Ardizzone, Edward. Tim to the lighthouse. New York: Walck, 1968.

Primary, fiction.

Set in a sea coast town the story depicts older people in charge of lighthouses exchanging tales and in a variety of other roles and behaviors.

IMAGE: Older people depicted as autonomous and diverse.

Burch, Robert. Two that were tough. New York: Viking, 1976.

Intermediate, fiction.

An old man and a wild gray chicken survive the years, each valuing his freedom above all else.

IMAGE: As independent, idiocyncratic and wild as his old grey chicken, the old man sticks to his vow to be "free" to come and go as he pleases.

Goffstein, M.B. Fish for supper. New York: Dial, 1976.

Preschool, primary, fiction.

One day in the life of a grandmother is illustrated beginning at 5 a.m. and going through all of the routines necessary for fishing--including the catching, cleaning, cooking and eating. Grandma is a loner who does not fit the typical picture of an older person.

IMAGE: An independent and non-conformist grandmother who serves as a role model of a different sort. She answers to no one and does as she chooses.

Green, Phyllis. Mildred Murphy, how does your garden grow? Reading, Mass.: Addison-Wesley, 1977.

Intermediate, fiction

Ten year old Mildred Murphy's diary tells the story of the transition from a New Jersey suburb to a Victorian California neighborhood as seen through her astronomer father's telescope. Her special friends are a black maid and an old lady who lives in a run down garage.

IMAGE: A strong willed old lady becomes a part of a "new girl's" survelience of the neighborhood. She lives alone and is independent of others around her.

Kantrowitz, Mildred. Maxie. New York: Parents Magazine Press, 1970.

Primary, fiction

An elderly woman named Maxie lives alone and comes to feel unloved and unneeded. Only after spending a day in bed

does she realize that her habits and activities touch other people and their daily routines.

IMAGE: A realitstic picture of Maxie as an old woman who lives alone and the feelings of loneliness and uselessness she has. Illustrates the need to serve a purpose or function in society--even if you are old.

Wilkes, Paul. Fitzgo, The wild dog of Central Park. New York: J.B. Lippincott, Co., 1973.

Intermediate, fiction.

A sympathetic portrait of an old man emerges as he befriends and tames a wild dog of whom everyone else is afraid.

"IDEAL" GRANDPARENTS

Adler, David A. A little at a time. New York: Random House, 1976. Illustrated by N.M. Boderker.

Primary, fiction

Things grow and change a little at a time as explained by a grandfather to his grandson.

IMAGE: Understanding of the concept of time changing things, including people, is a part of the relationship of a grandfather to his grandson. The grandfather is depicted as capable and wise.

Buckley, Helen E. Grandfather and I. New York: Lothrop, 1959.

Primary, fiction

The story of a special relationship between a young child and his grandfather.

IMAGE: Text and illustrations give the feel of physical closeness between a young child and a grandparent. The role is one of mutual sharing and understanding. Flat character--more a picture book.

Buckley, Helen. Grandmother and I. New York: Lothrop, 1961.

Primary, fiction

A comparison volume to Grandfather and I this book shows the relationship between the oldest and the youngest in the family.

Buckley, Helen. The wonderful little boy. New York: Lothrop, Lee and Shepard, 1970.

Primary, fiction

The little boy's grandmother is loving, supportive and understanding of all his needs. Further she knows just how to behave. A portrait of the ideal grandmother.

IMAGE: A sweet docile Grandmother. Supportive and understanding of her grandson.

Hein, Lucille. My very special friend. Judson, 1974.

Primary, fiction

A great grandmother is the principal character who, although she walks slowly and takes naps, also teaches her great-granddaughter to play games, sew and tie shoe laces. (Picture book)

IMAGE: A physically old body doesn't necessarily have a slow mind. A special sharing realtionship between a great-grandmother and a young child shows the old person as a warm, accepting person who is also plays the role of teacher and helper for the little girl.

Jarrell, Mary. The knee baby. New York: Farrar, 1973.

Primary, fiction

Trying to wait patiently for his turn on his mother's lap, a little boy dreams about what his grandmother might be doing.

IMAGE: Grandmothers always have a space on their lap and love and understanding of their grandchildren--especially in the daydreams of the little ones.

The Grandmother is the wish-fulfillment of the young boy.

Knotts, Howard. Great Grandfather, The baby, and me. New York: Atheneum, 1978.

Primary, fiction

A small boy tells how his great-grandfather helped him adjust to his new baby sister.

IMAGE: The Great Grandfather is depicted as being patient and able to teach the young one about acceptance with the child cast in the role of one to be protected and cared for.

Kroll, Stephen. If I could be my grandmother. New York: Pantheon Books, 1977.

Primary, fiction

A picture book describes all the things this little girl would do for her Raggedy Ann grandchild if she could be the grandmother.

IMAGE: The picture of a sweet loving grandmother through the eyes of a child's play-acting.

Shulevitz, Uri. Dawn. New York: Farrar Strauss and Giroux, 1974.

Primary, fiction

A subtle but moving depiction of the relationship between a young child and his grandfather. The message is portrayed through the illustrations.

IMAGE: A picture book protrayal of the closeness of a child to a grandfather. The relationship is one of mutual sharing and respect.

Wood, Joyce. Grandmother Lucy in her garden. Cleveland: Collins-World, 1975. Illustrated by Frank Francis.

Primary, fiction

The first in a series of stories about Grandmother Lucy, a girl, and a white cat. In this story the little girl walks in the garden with her grandmother.

IMAGE: A warm safe relationship between Grandmother and Granddaughter. Acceptance of the child's need to be a child--no conflict--the illustrations add beautifully to the feeling of a warm relationship.

Wyse, Lois. Grandfathers are to love. New York: Parent's Magazine Press, 1967. Illustrated by Martha Alexander.

Primary, fiction

A book about all the loving useful things you can do with a grandfather.

IMAGE: White Grandfathers are portrayed in positive loving ways.

Zolotow, Charlotte. My grandson Lew. New York: Harper and Row, 1974. Illustrated by William Pine DuBois.

Primary, fiction

Lewis and his mother share their memories of Grandpa and the love he brought to their family. The simplicity and the warmth bring to light a young child's treasured memories.

IMAGE: The beloved memory of a deceased Grandfather shows a feeling of warmth and closeness between a young child and his memories.

The child's mother shares the good feelings and memories.

Zolotow, Charlotte. William's Doll. New York: Harper and Row, 1972. Illustrated by William Pine DuBois.

Primary, fiction

When a little boy wanted a doll more than anything else he was teased and directed toward "boy's things" until his grandmother understood how much he really wanted a doll.

IMAGE: Grandmothers understand their grandson's more than other people do. In spite of a situation which could create conflict Grandmothers makes a young boy's wish for a doll not only acceptable--but reality.

Warm understanding relationship with the grandson. Grandmother in charge of the situation.

INDEPENDENT GRANDPARENT LIVING ALONE AND BECOMING ILL

Cate, Dick. Never is a long, long time. Nashville: Nelson, 1976.

Intermediate, fiction.

As he approaches 12, Billy experiences many important events: the death of the family dog, the birth of his sister's baby, and his grandmother's illness.

Cleaver, Vera and Bill. Queen of hearts. New York: J.B. Lippencott, Co., 1978.

Intermediate, fiction.

Twelve year old Wilma finds her summer no longer her own when her proud, independent Granny Lincoln suffers a mild stroke.

IMAGE: An independent stubborn grandmother suffers the payment of old age--physical illness and inability to care for herself. The grandchildren are cast in the role of caring for the grandmother--while the children's parents are faced with the decision of what arrangements are to be made for her care. The dilemma illustrates the social/moral issue of what rights old people have to remain autonomous. Also presented is one realistic view of the "old folks home" where some of Grandmother's peers have literally "gone to die." The insight of an old person as having feelings and a past when they were younger and more capable is gained by the young girl who matures as a result.

Orgel, Doris. The Mulberry Music. New York: Harper and Row, 1971.

Intermediate, fiction.

Libby's Grandma Liza is a strong-willed individual who is Libby's mentor. When she becomes ill and goes to the hospital, Libby difies the establishment and goes to the hospital to try to find her.

IMAGE: Grandmother lives alone and has a level of autonomy. She has a special relationship with her granddaughter. When illness and consequent hospitalization occur the frailty of old age is realized. Also illustrated is the misunderstanding and fear of loss children have when situations are not fully explained to them.

Windsor, Patricia. Mad Martin. New York: Harper and Row, 1976.

Intermediate, fiction.

Martin is a sad solitary boy who lives with his grandfather. When grandfather breaks his hip, Martin's experiences with a large foster family help him to relate to others. Grandfather also learns again how nice it is to talk to others.

IMAGE: An eccentric old man given the care of his grandson does not talk to or relate to the child and has a physical mishap which puts him on the track of talking to and trying to understand the boy.

INDEPENDENT AUTONOMOUS GRANDPARENT WHO HAS THE ROLE OF PRIMARY CARE OF A CHILD

Clymer, Eleanor Lowenton. My brother Stevie. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., 1967.

Intermediate, fiction.

The relationship between twelve year old Annie, eight year old Stevie and their grandmother is a stormy one until the children are faced with a situation where in they learn to appreciate living with their grandmother. The

story illustrates the concept of responsibility one sibling often accepts for another and the burdens which are imposed as a result.

Clymer, Eleanor. The get away car. New York: Dutton, 1978.

Intermediate, fiction.

A young girl's grandmother has a knack for helping people with their problems while at the same time solving her own.

IMAGE: An independent decision-maker who is in the role of helping the children resolve their problems.

Fitzhugh, Louise. The long secret. New York: Harper and Row Publishers, Inc., 1965

Intermediate, fiction.

Shy twelve year old Beth Ellen feels transient with her grandmother which promotes her writing of anonomous poison pen letters. The return of her mother and the conflict evoked result in the resolution of her feelings and acceptance of her "place" to belong.

IMAGE: The misunderstood grandmother is finally accepted as the permanent caregiver to a young girl. Conflict appears in the tragic relationship of the grandmother, the mother, and the granddaughter.

Garner, Alan. Granny Reardun. Cleveland: Collins, 1978.

Intermediate, fiction.

Joseph knows that he has to be different from his grandfather, a stone mason. The day comes when he must announce his decision.

IMAGE: Conflict between what is expected by a grandfather who dictates tradition and a grandson who defies the grandfather he respects to find his own life.

Goffstein, Marilyn Brooke. Two piano tuners. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, Inc., 1970.

Intermediate, fiction.

Debbie who is about eight years old lives with her grandfather, Rueben Weinstock who is a piano tuner. Through her experiences with the great pianist, Issac Lysman, she convinces her grandfather that she has an aptitude for piano tuning rather than as a concert pianist.

IMAGE: Mutual acceptance of the grandfather and the granddaughter. The grandfather is pictured as intelligent, capable, independent and talented. He is also the primary caregiver for his granddaughter.

Hartling, Peter. Oma. New York: Harper and Row, 1977.

Intermediate, fiction.

Kalle, a five year old orphan goes to live with his paternal grandmother in Munich. Oma (German for grandma) is one of a kind.

Hellberg, Hans-Eric. Grandpa's Maria. New York: Morrow, 1974.

Intermediate, fiction.

From Sweden comes a sensitive, humorous story of a seven year old girl growing up in the care of her grandfather.

IMAGE: A Swedish grandpa works as an independent photographer and is the primary care giver for his granddaughter. The feeling of sharing and acceptance is tempered by the grandfather's work. The admiration and reverence for her grandfather seems a natural reaction for the child.

Miles, Miska. Gertrude's Pocket. New York: Little, Brown and Co., 1970.

Primary, fiction

The story of Gertrude who lives with her grandmother in a small Appaliachian town involves both her relationship with her grandmother and the feud between her and the local bully Watson Pike.

IMAGE: Grandmother as the primary caregiver for the child is a peripheral character to the plot.

Ness, Evaline Michelow. Josefina February. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1963.

Primary, fiction

The story of a Hatiian fruitpicker and his granddaughter involves the willingness of a child to part for something she values for the grandfather she loves. (preschool, primary fiction).

IMAGE: A picture book story of a young child trying to please her Grandfather. The relationship is one of mutual love acceptance andunderstanding.

Stolz, Mary Slattery. The mystery of the woods. New York: Harper and Row Publishers, Inc., 1964.

Intermediate, fiction.

Will lives with his grandfather, Mr. Fanshaw at the edge of the woods. The home seems a happy one though controlled by rigid rules. The loss of a new kitten illustrates to grandpa the "moral" of change as an alternative.

IMAGE: The stereotype of the "strict" yet loving grandfather gives way in the face of a minor crisis in which the grandfather and the boy become equals in looking for the lost pet and changing their mind about some of their prior boundaries.

Taylor, Mark. A Time for Flowers. Children's Press, Inc., 1967. Illus. by Graham Booth.

Primary, fiction

The grandchildren of a Japanese-American family have a special relationship with their Grandfather. Their attempts to help him with his problems create problems of their own. Their attempts to sell their flowers in order to replace his broken glasses show their unselfishness and willingness to help.

IMAGE: Wise patient Grandfather as teacher and provider of support to the grandchildren. Children try to please the old one.

Vogel, Ilse-Margaret. Dodo every day. New York: Harper, 1977.

Intermediate, fiction.

A little girl tells about her relationship with her grandmother.

IMAGE: A capable independent grandmother shares a relationship with her granddaughter. The child is allowed to have a child's role with Dodo taking care of her.

Warburg, Sandol Stoddard. Growing Time. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Co., 1969.

Primary, fiction

Jamies's dog King grew as he grew but became an old dog before Jamie was ready to let him go. He is comforted by a new puppy but not before he shares his feeling of sadness with his Granny and finally begins to accept the reality and meaning of death.

IMAGE: Grandmother is the acceptor of the child's thoughts and frustrations about loss of a pet. The role of a person to trust and turn to is depicted for the Grandmother.

THE NURSING HOME

Clifford, Eth. The rocking chair rebellion. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1978.

Intermediate, fiction

A teenager chronicles her involvement with the residents of Maple Ridge Home for the Aged and their revolution.

The teenager is cast in the role of helping or caring for the older folks, although their abilities to "cope" with the situation are as diverse as their personalities. Presents the moral dilemma of rights of the over 65 minority-illustrates the problems and feelings of old people in general and those incarcertaed in homes for the elderly in particular. Also depicts the dilemma of those who have feelings for others without a channel within which they can change circumstances or vent their feelings of frustration.

IMAGE: Diverse, realistic depiction of older people in a home for the elderly. The role of the teenager as helper serves as a catalyst for several seldom mentioned problems older folks have--namely what arrangements are to be made for a cemetery plot. Opie is able to relate to the situation and the people only after initial shock and soul searching.

PHOTOGRAPHIC ESSAYS

Anconda, George. Growing older. New York: E.P. Dutton, 1978.

Intermediate, biolographical sketches

The recounting of favorite memories and sharing feelings is the text to accompany the photographs of a diverse group of vibrant adults who are growing older.

IMAGE: Diversity of older people. Many well-done photograph portraits.

Armstrong, William. Barefoot in the grass. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1970.

Intermediate, biography

Mary Ann Robertson grew up with hard work and family love on a remote farm in upper New York State. As Mrs. Moses she the happy life of a farmer's wife in Virginia and New York until the age of 101. Arthritis at the age of 60 results in giving up farm chores and needlework and she turned to a second career in painting. Her 1600 paintings hang in many galleries here and abroad.

IMAGE: A productive creative person who got better as she grew older.

Bagnell, Jill. Crayfishing with grandmother. London: Collins, 1973.

Intermediate, fiction

Set in New Zealand this is the story of a day's crayfishing in the old style. The Maori boy Wira, his brother, his grandmother and grandfather, all spend an interesting, enjoyable and profitable day along the coast garnering shellfish.

IMAGE: A productive, hardworking set of people who also happen to be grandparents. The children are seen as learning from the grandparents.

Bales, Carol Ann. Tales of the elders. Chicago: Follett, 1977.

Intermediate, biographical sketches, informational

A memory book of men and women who came to America as immigrants 1900-1930.

IMAGE: Old people are presented as a diverse group who shared the hardships of being immigrants in a new country.

Jackson, Louise A. Grandpa had a windmill, Grandma had a churn. New York: Parent's Magazine Press, 1977. Illustrated by George Anconda.

Primary, fiction

The tale of a small girl growing up in rural Texas shares the delights and mysteries of Granpa's whetstone and Grandma's cellar full of preserves. Illustrated by photograph the flavor is of the Texas in the 1940's.

IMAGE: Of a young child's memories of visiting her Grandparents on the Texas Plains. The grandparents are depicted as hard working independent folks.

Raymor, Dorka. Grandparents Around the World. Chicago: Albert Whitman, 1977.

Photographic essay of the grandparents from all parts of the world.

IMAGE: Photographs illustrating the diveristy of grandparents.

Shanks, Ann Zane. Old is What You Get. New York: Viking Press, 1976.

Photographs and interviews of both the young and the old give the flavor of the worries, fears, terrors and optimisms at both ends of the spectrum.

IMAGE: Both very old and young people express diverse viewpoints about what becoming "old" means.

Vickery, Florence E. Old and growing. Springfield, Ill.: Thomas, 1978.

Photographic essay of conversations, reflections, and observations on growing old. (all ages)

IMAGE: Pictures of the diversity of old age.

SINILITY

Baldwin, Anne Norris. Sunflowers for Tina. New York: Four Winds Press, 1970.

Primary, fiction

Tina is a black child living in the city with her mother, brother, and grandmother. Grandmother is silent passive and unresponsive until Tina brightens her day with a sunflower dance.

IMAGE: A black grandmother is pictured as helpless and passive--not in touch with what goes on in the world--until her granddaughter brings her a gift of attention.

Illustrates the loneliness and the facet of "a little attention goes a long way."

Blue, Rose. Grandma didn't wave back. New York: Franklin Watts, 1972.

Intermediate, fiction

It is hard for Debbie, who loves her grandmother dearly to understand that she is getting old and senile and is going to live in a nursing home. In the end the nursing home seems to provide a satisfying solution to everyone.

IMAGE: The old senile grandmother is portrayed with loss of memory and conflict in the family dictating an old folks home as the solution. Granddaughter is cast in the role of being the Grandmother's defender and protector.

Buck, Pearl S. The Beech tree. New York: John Day, 1955.

Intermediate, fiction

A girl's love and understanding of her old grandfather helps her to convince her parents that the grandfather should not be sent away.

IMAGE: The old sick grandfather is depicted as senile and creates conflict in the household. The granddaughter is cast in the role of the defender and protector.

Lundgren, Max. Matts Grandfather. New York: Putnam's, 1970.

Primary, fiction

Matt's parents take him to visit his eighty-five year old grandfather in a nursing home. The visit gives Matt a different image of his grandfather with the development of mutual warmth and respect between childhood and old age.

IMAGE: Grandfather is senile, living in an old folk's home and projecting conflict between himself and his son while

the grandson is able to relate to Grandpa on his level--that of a second childhood.

Mazer, Norma. A figure of speech. New York: Delacaret Press, 1973.

Intermediate, fiction

This book deals with old age in a painful but forthright manner. The eighty three year old decides to commit suicide rather than be sent to a nursing home. The issue of being permitted to make decisions and to function as an individual as essential no matter what the age is realistically presented.

IMAGE: The eighty-three year old is faced with the problems of old age, physical failing and fear of rejection. The attempt to commit suicide illustrates the helplessness felt by many old people who reach the point of not being allowed to be in charge of any part of their lives.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OLDER PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF THE FAMILY

Ardizzone, Edward. Lucy Brown and Mr. Grimes. New York: Henry Z. Walck, Inc., 1970.

Primary, fiction.

Lucy Brown had no parents and lived with a busy Aunt. Her best friend, an elderly gentleman named Mr. Grimes, met her at the park every day. When he doesn't show up at the park Lucy worries and wonders where he is. Many surprises occur when he invites Lucy to come and live with him.

IMAGE: Mr. Grimes is pictured not only as lonely and idiocryncratic but also as physically ugly. The story presents Lucy's Aunt as too busy to care about her niece while ugly Mr. Grimes is pictured as the hero in a "fairy tale" like relationship.

Cunnigham, Julie. Burnish me bright. New York: Pantheon Books, 1970.

Intermediate, fiction.

The story of a deaf mute who has found an aged friend to teach him a productive art.

IMAGE: An old distinguished gentleman shows warmth and patience toward a handicapped youth. The role is depicted as one of competence and intelligence with a warm relationship established between the old man and the boy.

Ewing, Kathryn. A private matter. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, Inc., 1975.

Intermediate, fiction.

Marcy Benson hadn't realized how much she missed not having a father until the Endicotts moved next door. She develops a touching relationship with the friendly retired couple--especiallly Mr. Endicott with whom she loves to putter.

IMAGE: The acceptance of a young girl by a retired couple is not with out problems. Although Mr. Endicott is pictured as competent independent person, he has the realistic human reaction of withdrawal and drinking too much when faced with the death of his wife. The issue of separation and loss is presented on two levels by the death of a mate of many years and the separate issue of the separation and loss faced by the girl who loses the security of being accepted much as a grandchild would be accepted.

Godden, Rumer. Mr. McFadden's Halloween. New York: Viking Press, 1975.

Intermediate, fiction

Selina befriends and pays the price of being a good witch when she tries to take a Halloween treat to cantankerous but kindly Mr. McFaddin. The story set on the Scottish border concerns the inheritance of a small pony, an abandoned boy, and a memorable Halloween.

IMAGE: Mr. McFaddin is pictured as grouchy and cantankerous. The cruelty often seen in Halloween pranks is illustrated. The unapporachable old man lives alone and is not understood nor liked by his neighbors. He is resistant to change and to the "new ways". Children make the difference

when they treat him kindly--they are pictured as "changing" his life style and how he reacts to the community.

Heide, Florence Parry. When the sad one comes to stay. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1975.

Intermediate, fiction.

Caught between her mother's fashionable world and her own feelings, Sara is faced with a painful choice--she must defy her mother or reject her elderly friend Maisie. Both the issue of the loneliness of an older person and the fear of what peers think are graphically illustrated.

IMAGE: Maisie is the epitome of an old person who uses her superstitions and understandings of growing old to fend off the coming of "the sad one". Her lack of the niceities and her dress are all signals of her aging and nearness to poverty. They are also signals of her lack of sophistication in the fashionable world of the city. Her loss of memory and laspse into the past may be reflective of senility and/or loneliness. The relationship of sharing and then the rejection by a twelve-year-old is symbolic of the rejection of the old by the young which often occurs in this society.

The feeling of loss and separation from family and others who could be "close" is illustrated both through the feelings of Maisie and the feelings and confusion of Sara.

Rogers, Pamela. The rare one. Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1973.

Intermediate, fiction.

Thirteen year old Toby, unhappy about his own affairs, spends many hours with elderly Josh in order to write an essay about the old man's activities and reasons for living alone. The success of his essay creates problems and changes for both Toby and Josh.

IMAGE: Elderly but competent and independent, Josh leads a life outside of the social norm. He ultimately shows acceptance of change. The boy is also a loner who ultimately relates to and learns from the old man.

Schaefer, Jack W. Old Ramon. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1960.

Intermediate, fiction.

Old Ramon, sheepherder, one-time bandit and loyal friend, takes the ranch owner's son on an annual trip to the summer pasture far into the mountains. The boy learns not only sheepherding responsibilities but also the wisdom of an older person.

Weil, Lisa. The funny old bag. New York: Parent's Magazine Press, 1974.

Primary, fiction

An old couple in the park are the focus of Howie and his friend's jokes, but when Howie is hurt the old people with the funny bag provide much needed help.

IMAGE: The old couple are ridiculed and laughed at for being old and funny--"Stereo type of old and funny looking". Role of child--antagonist--create conflict--then in position of needing help which is given.